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ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Addendum

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions wishes to draw the attention of the Fifth Committee to an exchange of correspondence between the Controller and the Chairman of the Committee with regard to the financing of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) (see annexes I and II). The problem referred to in the exchange of correspondence is urgent and is a further example of what was meant by the Committee when it stated in its report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/49/664, para. 27):

> "Indeed, it is likely that at any given time one or more peace-keeping operations are actually operating without legal financial authority since, because of delays in the preparation of the cost estimates, it had not been possible for the Committee and/or the General Assembly to complete their consideration in time. Examples, at the time of the writing of this report, are the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)."

2. The Committee believes that approval of its recommendations with regard to the peace-keeping budget cycle should go a long way towards solving these problems. In the meantime the Committee points out that a situation similar to that of UNPROFOR exists, or will soon exist, with regard to a number of other peace-keeping operations. In this regard, the General Assembly may wish to consider measures to continue the delegation of authority already granted to the Committee in each case, so that the necessary commitments can continue to be entered into pending the consideration of the relevant budget in the General Assembly.

ANNEX I

Letter dated 28 November 1994 from the Controller to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

By its resolution 48/238 B of 29 July 1994, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the operation of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) at a rate not to exceed $140 million gross ($138,778,800 net) per month for the period from 1 October to 30 November 1994, if the Security Council extended the mandate beyond 30 September 1994.

On 30 September 1994 UNPROFOR's mandate was extended until 31 March 1995 by Security Council resolution 947 (1994). In the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNPROFOR dated 19 October 1994 (A/49/540), the cost of maintaining the Force for the six-month period from 1 October 1994 to 31 March 1995 is estimated at $992,688,900 gross ($986,873,300 net), including provision for equipment required in connection with the enlargements authorized by Council resolutions 908 (1994) of 31 March 1994 and 915 (1994) of 27 April 1994. This is equivalent to approximately $165.4 million gross ($164.5 million net) per month pro-rated for the six-month period.

Pending the review by the Fifth Committee of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financing of UNPROFOR and the decision by the General Assembly, the concurrence of the Advisory Committee is sought to enter into commitments for the operation of the Force during the month of December 1994 in the amount of $140 million gross ($138,778,800 net).

(Signed) Yukio TAKASU
Controller

ANNEX II

Letter dated 2 December 1994 from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the Secretary-General

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Controller's letter dated 28 November 1994 seeking the Committee's concurrence to enter into commitments for the operation of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) during the month of December 1994 in the amount of $140 million gross ($138,778,800 net).

As indicated in that letter, by its resolution 48/238 B of 29 July 1994, the General Assembly authorized you to enter into commitments for the operation of UNPROFOR at a rate not to exceed $140 million gross ($138,778,800 net) per month for the period from 1 October to 30 November 1994, if the Security Council extended the mandate beyond 30 September 1994.

The Security Council, by its resolution 947 (1994), extended the mandate of UNPROFOR until 31 March 1995. The Committee notes that your report on the financing of UNPROFOR is currently awaiting consideration by the General Assembly. Pending that consideration, you are in urgent need of commitment authority beyond 30 November 1994.

A problem arises however, in that the commitment authority contained in General Assembly resolution 48/238 B expired on 30 November 1994; as a consequence the Advisory Committee is not legally in a position to authorize entry into any commitment beyond that date. Moreover, the Committee points out that General Assembly resolution 48/229 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1994-1995 is not applicable in this case, as the expenditures are not unforeseen.

Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee intends to draw this situation to the attention of the Fifth Committee with a recommendation that the General Assembly take action on an urgent basis to address this problem, possibly by renewing, for the requisite time period, the delegation of authority first given to the Advisory Committee in General Assembly resolution 48/238 B.

(Signed) C. S. M. MSELLE
Chairman